

# Information Technology Newsletter

(Division of Communications, State of Nebraska)

The Mission of Information Technology is to serve the citizens of Nebraska by providing premier information technology leadership, policy and operations which facilitate an effective, responsive, and efficient government.

## Rural Residents May Need to Switch to Digital Cell Phones

Associated Press

Many rural consumers are resisting the switch to digital wireless phones because their older, analog models often receive better reception and signal strength in areas where wireless towers are further apart. This resistance is not in line with two Federal Communications Commission (FCC) mandates, one requiring analog service to be phased out by 2008 and a second requiring 95% of each wireless carrier's customers to have digital handsets with location-capable technology by the end of this year.

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission, The Rural Cellular Association, and CTIA-The Wireless Association are asking the FCC to suspend this second requirement so consumers are not forced to give up their wireless phones. The digital, location-capable handsets would allow emergency operators to pinpoint a user's location when a call is placed to 911. However, as of June 2005, less than half of the nation's 911 call centers had the capability of locating a wireless phone containing location-capable technology.

If you have questions about this article, please contact Mike Jeffres at 402-471-3719.

## The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Digital Government

Fusion '05 - Nebraska

The first application of digital government was in 1955. The cold war served as a tipping point for information technology, with unique government needs driving joint development of systems that integrated hardware, software and network connectivity for the first time. Now, half a century later, the internet has changed the game again, turning closed, proprietary systems and networks on their head in the face of daunting security and continuity challenges. This session attempts to step back from the pendulum shifts in centralization vs. decentralization, public vs. private, buy vs. build, and own vs. lease to extract lessons that can serve public sector IT during the next 50 years while daring to imagine what it would be like to do IT all over again.

The third annual Fusion '05 Nebraska will be held November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln, Nebraska. There is no fee for government employees to attend, but you must register. To register, call Shayna Mayen at 800-917-7732 ext. 402. The keynote speaker is Al Sherwood, a Senior Fellow with the Center for Digital Government.

**Al Sherwood** is a Senior Fellow with the Center for Digital Government. A former deputy CIO for the state of Utah,

Sherwood served on the CIO leadership team that helped implement Utah Governor Michael Leavitt's vision for the state's digital government initiatives. He also served as the state's chief privacy officer and authored the first state privacy policy. For the last three years, Sherwood served on the National Association of Chief Information Officer's Privacy Subcommittee. He was one of the original architects of Utah's digital government strategy. Before retiring from state government to start an IT consulting firm, Sherwood's career in public service spanned over 26 years. During this time, he served on a number of boards and committees and was the recipient of several distinguished awards and accolades.

## ICE – In Case of Emergency

**By Jayne Scofield**

Paramedics will turn to a victim's cell phone for clues to that person's identity. You can make their job much easier with a simple idea that they are trying to get everyone to adopt: ICE. ICE stands for "In Case of Emergency." If you add an entry in the contacts list in your cell phone under ICE, with the name and phone number of the person that the emergency services should call on your behalf, you can save them a lot of time and have your loved ones contacted quickly. It only takes a few moments of your time to do.

Paramedics know what ICE means and they look for it immediately. ICE your cell phone NOW!

## Daylight-Saving Time Change May Cause Device Problems

**By PCMAG.com**

An energy bill signed by President Bush will lengthen daylight-saving time by nearly a month, and some industry insiders worry that the change could spark smaller-scale Y2K-style problems in computers and electronics. The bill calls for daylight-saving time to begin three weeks earlier and end a week later to conserve energy.

Changes to the daylight-saving time table, which has been in effect since 1987, are scheduled to begin in 2007. Since most applications have an internal clock and read time off of a network (i.e. cell phones) or have software written to update time changes automatically, these issues are most likely to be a matter of inconvenience for consumers, according to Michael Gartenberg, vice president and research director or JupiterResearch.

The worst-case scenario is that consumers may have to set times on manual devices and check automatic devices to make sure they've been updated twice a year. It's the more sophisticated devices (i.e. PCs or "smart devices" with intelligent capability set in) that may be slightly more problematic.

Although manual updates carried out by consumers will likely fix any difficulties that could arise, the new law may require that some companies provide updates for their devices or software to compensate for the time change.

### **Directory Listing Closing Dates:**

Alliance/Chadron.....	11/15/05
Kearney.....	10/15/05
Nebraska Panhandle .....	11/01/05
Ord.....	10/15/05
York.....	11/15/05

For more information, contact Renee at 402-471-4701.

## NEW Procedures for Recycling or Surplus of Your Fax Machines

**By Norma White**

Effective August 1, 2005; the Division of Information Technology has revised the procedure for fax machine disposal. All State agencies may now dispose of fax machines directly to CP Recovery of Omaha, for recycle **or** to Surplus Property in Lincoln. CP Recovery comes to Lincoln once a week. CP Recovery can be reached by phone or email; 402-331-1630 or [cprecovery@aol.com](mailto:cprecovery@aol.com).

If your fax machine works, contact Gregg Yaussi at our State Surplus Property facility to find out the next scheduled date for drop off. Gregg can be reached at 402-471-3896. Drop off dates are also available on DAS Materiel website. Remember when sending a working fax machine to surplus, you need to include all parts, cords and manuals.

Does your agency have offices outside of Lincoln or Omaha? If so, you no longer have to return your fax machines to Lincoln. Check you local area for recycle facilities. Once you know you can recycle the fax machine locally, call Vicki McElroy of the Division of Communications for a COD (Certificate of Destruct) form. You can reach Vicki at 402-471-2761.

Whether your fax machine is inventory or non inventory (Fixed Asset or not a Fixed Asset), you can destruct the equipment locally. There is a form that must be used regardless of the process you choose to follow. Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding your fax machine surplus/ recycle / procurement procedures. You can reach me via email at [nwhite@doc.state.ne.us](mailto:nwhite@doc.state.ne.us) or phone at 402-471-3562. These procedures will also be listed on our website soon at [www.doc.state.ne.us](http://www.doc.state.ne.us).

## Telephone Trivia . . .

1. In what year did telephone companies begin using area codes?  
a) 1940   b) 1937   c) 1947
2. What was the name of the nasal telephone operator portrayed by Lily Tomlin on TV's Laugh-In?  
a) Alice   b) Ernestine   c) Eunice
3. Which President installed the first telephone in the White House?  
a) Rutherford B. Hayes  
b) Harry Truman  
c) Ulysses S. Grant
4. What does the "M" stand for in the name of the long distance provider MCI?  
a) microwave   b) marketing  
c) multiple

Answers:

1) c   2) b   3) a   4) a

## Did you know . . . .

In the first month of the Bell Telephone Company's existence in 1877, only six telephones were sold!

When Bell's patent was sixteen months old, there were 778 telephones in use.

The American Bell Telephone system was named after Alexander Graham Bell. However, the Canadian Bell Telephone system wasn't name for Alexander Graham Bell. It was named for his father, Alexander Melville Bell. Being a good son, he gave is father the Canadian rights to the telephone.

- from [\*The History of the Telephone\*](#) by Herbert N. Casson.